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TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [TW](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: CROSS-STRAIT RELATIONS

1. Summary: While the major Chinese-language Taipei dailies continued July 28 to focus their coverage on the game-rigging/player-bribery scandal in Taiwan's Professional Baseball League, they also reported on the outbreak of a deadly but unidentified disease in Sichuan, the escalating incidence of avian flu in the region, and Taiwan's Han Kuang No. 21 military exercises. The pro-independence "Taiwan Daily" ran an article on its front page concerning the exercise as well as a seminar held in Washington, DC, on the recent Pentagon report on China's military strength. The headline for this article read: "U.S. military specialists: Taiwan should enhance its defense capabilities to prevent [the possibility that U.S. forces] might not be able to come to Taiwan's aid in time." The sub-headline added: "If [Taiwan] loses its capability to resist immediately after it is attacked, it would be difficult for the United States to turn the situation [around for the better]. [Taiwan President] Bian observed the 'Han Kuang military exercises' and requests again [that the Legislative Yuan pass] the arms procurement bill."

In the wake of President Chen's remarks made about cross-strait relations during a video conference with members of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan July 26, all the major Chinese-language newspapers reported in their inside pages July 28 that Premier Frank Hsieh has already instructed the Mainland Affairs Council to review cross-strait economic and trade collaboration projects as soon as possible to implement President Chen Shui-bian's policy of "effective management." The centrist "China Times" carried a news story that was topped with the headline: "Cabinet: [The government] will retreat if it fails to effectively manage its westbound [policy]."

2. In terms of editorials, several pro-independence newspapers continued to editorialize on Chen's remarks in the videoconference on the cross-strait ties. An editorial of the pro-independence "Liberty Times," Taipei's biggest daily, said President Chen has promoted the concept of "a new balance of power across the Taiwan Strait" to the international community to mean that both sides of the Taiwan Strait are already "one country on each side" and the lie of "one China" has been shattered. A "Taiwan Daily" editorial echoed Chen's call for "effective management" of Taiwan's high-tech industry's investment in China, saying that the economic and trade exchanges across the Taiwan Strait must be cooled off. An editorial in the limited-circulation, pro-independence, English-language "Taipei Times" criticized the Pan-Blue Camp for blocking the arms procurement bill that would help to strengthen Taiwan's defense capabilities. End summary.

A) "[The Establishment of] 'A New Balance of Power Across the Taiwan Strait' Must Be Based on Sovereignty"

The pro-independence "Liberty Times" [circulation: 800,000] editorialized (7/28):

". [President Chen Shui-bian's] advocacy of the concept of 'a new balance of power across the Taiwan Strait' is a proclamation to the international community that it is an existing fact that both sides of the Taiwan Strait are already 'one country on each side [of the Strait]' and shatters the lie of 'one China.' In the meantime, it has instilled the [concept] of 'democracy' into Taiwan's independent sovereignty and highlighted [the fact] that not only do the sovereignties of both sides of the Taiwan Strait not belong to one another, but also the differences in their systems are [that of] a barbaric communist totalitarianism versus civilized democracy and freedom. In other words, the conflicts between China and Taiwan are not only disputes between sovereignties of two countries, but it also involves conflicts between two sets of different values and systems. As a result, [the fact that] Taiwan is threatened by China is in essence similar to the fact that the global democratic community is threatened by communist China. In addition, China's [expansive]

military capability is stretching [beyond the region] to cover India, Russia, the entire territory of the United States, and other Asian-Pacific countries such as Australia and New Zealand. This has all the more proven that China's rise is a non-peaceful one and constitutes a serious threat to global peace and stability.

"It is a fact that given the gap between the national strengths of Taiwan and China, Taiwan must work with democratic countries like the United States, Japan and the European Union in order to resist China's aggressiveness [aimed at] annexing the island. The concept of 'a new balance of power across the Taiwan Strait' as advocated by President Chen will connect 'Taiwan's democracy' and 'cross-Strait peace' together, and by the same token, link Taiwan's safety with the stability and development of the global democratic community. Chen's well-intentioned move deserves [our] support and compliments. The purpose of his doing so was because Taiwan, in the face of China's military threats, does not only defend itself but is also serving as a strong pillar for the global democratic community [in the] fight against the Communism of centralized authority. ."

B) "China Coerces Taiwan Businessmen [on the Mainland] to Serve as Tools of Its United Front Tactics in an Attempt to 'Manipulate [the Taiwan] Government via Its Businessmen], So the Trade Activities across the Taiwan Strait Should Be Cooled off"

The pro-independence "Taiwan Daily" [circulation: 150,000] wrote in an editorial (7/28):

". This newspaper agrees with President Chen's proclamatory remarks. The Beijing government, following the enactment of the 'Anti-Secession Law' in particular, has used every depraved means it can to coerce Taiwan businessmen on the mainland to become the tools of its United Front tactics in an attempt to 'manipulate [the Taiwan] government via its businessmen.' Taiwan, of course, must no longer have this wishful thinking or fall into the illusion of 'opening first. .'

"It is evident that in the wake of China's enactment of the 'Anti-Secession Law,' trade activities across the Taiwan Strait have become a point of emphasis for Beijing to sow discord within Taiwan. . This newspaper believes that in addition to 'effective management,' the government must also thoroughly review and slow down certain exchange activities across the Taiwan Strait. The government should encourage local industries to invest in other countries whose investment risks are much lower than those of China's. At least, those countries will not dare to employ depraved tactics, as China does, to coerce Taiwan businessmen to turn against their own country and people."

C) "KMT's Flip-flop Endangers the Nation"

The pro-independence, English-language "Taipei Times" [circulation: 30,000] noted in an editorial (7/28):

"China's continued military expansion has not only increased tension across the Taiwan Strait, but has also made Japan, the US and other nations nervous. The US, as the world's policeman, is especially troubled, for it is responsible for maintaining security in the Asia-Pacific region. If Taiwan's position became endangered, the US could not easily ignore the situation. .

". The arms procurement bill, so long delayed by the legislature, is really a test of the Taiwanese people's will to defend themselves. If the bill is passed, it will substantially improve the nation's ability to defend itself. And it will also tell the international community that the Taiwanese people are determined to continue moving toward greater autonomy.

"At the same time, the pan-blue camp's obstructionism highlights the lack of a central guiding idea in Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) and People First Party (PFP) positions. . The KMT's fickle ways only prove that the party lacks a clear and constructive political plan. How could such a party gain the public's trust?"

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